

TERTIARY LEVEL ABUJA ADUBUOLA

I: Thank you very much, like we already have the brief information about the/background about the research topic we are walking about so I will like to ask that you should please describe about the kind of difficulty that COVID-19 pandemic and lockdown brought to educational activities in your state Abuja here. If you want to talk just signify

NUC: What is the essence of the number?

I: To make it anonymous, so that by the time they are transcribing they will know that is Participant 4 that is talking, so if everybody just talk we won't be able to differentiate with the voices,

NUC: Okay

I: Sir you can tell us, the kind of difficulty that COVID-19 Pandemic and lock down brought to educational activities in your state

NUC: Okay, Once again, I want to say good morning, like I introduced myself to you, okay, what I am saying is as a regulatory agency, I think we have to put it into perspective the difficulties this pandemic brought to the institutions under our care. The colleges before COVID 19 what is the effect COVID 19 brought one, it resisted movement, students, lecturers and the rest could not move, and that created a situation whereby the face to face learning that we are used to became very difficult in phases impossible. What that means again is that access to education was cut. So that now brought in the idea of virtual learning, In some cases, but those ones too were not without their own effect, one, Teachers and student were not prepared for that situation, in other words many were technically deficient, you know, especially with the use of this virtual facilities, in some cases the infrastructural technology were not adequate in some institutions to accommodate the margin challenges then, so that means that some were deprived, and the categories of learners that were deprived were more the less disadvantaged in terms of accessibility, in terms of money, in terms of data, because this virtual thing you needed to have data, many of the learners do not have the opportunity to follow the e-learning platforms, as a matter of fact, some of the teachers educators, that is those that were preparing the teachers themselves had every weak background for the use of technology, so they could not evaluate their students, they could not test them, they could not provide learning, and they needed to sit back until the restricted movement was loosened, so these are the in a nutshell some of the challenges our colleges faced.

I: thank you so much Sir, Sir, aside from what my daddy has said, do you have another opinions on this aspect?

NGO: Good morning everybody

I: Sir, don't worry to greet again, just tell us number this, so that we can

NGO: Number 3, participant number 3, in the area of tertiary education, precisely the university sector, I believe and from some data available, COVID-19 have actually negatively impacted the university sector, number one, it has led to shortage of human resources, a case study of Kano State, during the COVID-19, about the data, about 35 if you Google, 35 professor were, in a particular university, because there was a case of a victim of COVID-19 that entered the university and some of the professors went down, so, shortage of human resources, it brought shortage of human resources into the educational sector in the

higher institution, you cannot find that one in the primary or secondary, but that of the university is established, then in the area of funding.

I: Ehn, they left university or what?

NGO: They died, COVID-19 killed them. That is shortage of human resources, about 35 of them died professors, if not lecturers, yes, COVID-19 finish with them, then in the area of funding, if you look at the data available from the Federal Government, 2019, 2020 and 2021, the data fall in from the Federal Government were up and down, as of that 2020, I think UBEB have a fair share, when they were looking for money, they have to come to UBEB and took some of their money for other project, so it affected the funding of education nationally, if you look at the budget of education from 2019, 2020, 2021, it affected the funding, then you also go into, there are many points, I have some paper on it, if you go into, my Ogunoye, effect of COVID-19 on tertiary education in Nigeria.

I: Thank you very much, any other contribution to this question?

Then access to education reduced, access Yea, COVID-19 came as a rude shock, one to the country, and to the relevant stakeholders for example the Ministry of Education and other agencies under Federal Ministry of Education the NCC, NUC, NBTE, NEARDC, so it came as a shock, as a country we are not prepared, you know, we are not prepared for a thing like that, you know comparing our counterpart that have been doing online education, because Nigeria as a country is a very rigid country, when it comes to Open University, so, as that it came and they were all running helter-skelter, don't know what to do, One, lack of required skills by relevant agencies, to even tackle the online learning, they don't have the professors, they don't have it. Creation of digital education, it is a major problem for even professors at the university, some of these things were outsource to consultants so lack of skills, lack of preparation you know on the part of the regulatory bodies, again for students we discovered that during the COVID-19 because the culture of digital and online education is not part of the system, they don't understand how to go about it, you know many university decided to start using WhatsApp, which is absolutely out of the norms in education, WhatsApp, you know, then the zoom, the zoom issue, because for people like us that we are into providing access to education, we make sure that we follow our student bumper to bumper you know, for one is to shoot and all that. The issue of zoom, some agencies or some university cannot afford to even buy Zoom software, as little as \$24 because it was not budgeted for, now they left the student to their fate, you know a zoom software that supposed to cover for all the students, so what they did and for example let me use University of Ife as an example, that is Obafemi Awolowo University, they now structure this thing departmentally, from one faculty to another, they group the student, WhatsApp group here and there which was not effective, so, quality assurance in education was totally out of it, because nobody to actually monitors what was going on, Lecturers were now going online google, to copy information and just dump it to the student on WhatsApp pages so but without even having access to plagiarism software to test some of these. so giving student irrelevant information about their program and you know delivery of curriculum, was actually a major problem because it was COVID-19, just like he said, he is the regulatory aspect from NCC, you know lecturer and university couldn't follow the delivery of the curriculum as stated because they don't understand the dynamics of digital education. Then the issue of assessment, because in education, when you teach, you do assessment, you evaluate, because there were no proper mechanism put in place, assessment was zero, these are major challenges during COVID-19, then access to education reduced, access to education, because people from the rural area do not have gadget, they don't have power supply to even access this online program so if you look

at all these things, actually push some children to loose interest in Education, while lectures were going on some of them were just somewhere, playing, you know and because there was no proper M and E as well, to actually monitor what the students are doing, some will just on their audio and be playing and be jisting and also be chatting and making them to loose out and during COVID-19 many students failed woefully because they are not use to online learning. So I will like to stop at this points.

I: I will like to move on to the next question Sir

P: Okay, okay

I: Sir what are the specific shocks that you think COVID-19 had on student learning,

NUC: Shock?

I: Yes, learning differential that you think COVID-19 brought on, education sector

NUC: Can't you spit the question, that question again

I: Sir, what are the specific shocks that you think COVID-19 had on student learning,

NUC: short, shock

I: S H O C K

NUC: Ok, shock, alright, thank you very much, like the university, Like the National University Commission, is a commission that provide and make sure that they monitor quality education and because of that the COVID-19 impacted the student negatively, most of them don't have access to schools, most of them they are learning distant, and because of that they could not access anything about learning so that shock was massive nationwide, and because of that today even after the COVID-19 before most of the student could themselves on their feet, it takes them a lot of time, that is just all

I: Thank you so much Sir, did you mention your number?

NUC: Oh sorry, number 4

I: Ok, thank you Sir,

PARENT 1: ah... one of the

I: number?

PARENT 1: Let me look at it from the medical angle, it brought about a lot of depression, both to the parent and to the student and that is aberration, Because there were nothing to do, those who really want to learn could not learn, those who really want to go to school, could not go to school, those who really want to learn, could not have access to the gadget for e-learning, because their parent could not afford, they don't have, even as little as the WhatsApp, they couldn't even afford the data, so it's a lot of depression, and as a parent, like looking at my son, my daughter at home who is not going to school, of which I know how brilliant, I know the potentialities in that child, and I know there is no access, not even a room to move out, we are talking about playing, even the children could not go out to play, he is just sitting in one particular place, so it causes a lot of depression and let me tell you one thing, medically, if you have a lot to do, there is a limit to the food intake, because you are engaged, many don't even

remember to eat when they go to school, and as a result of that it also create room for the parent to have adequate preparation when it comes to supplies of food and everything, because when they go to school you know it's like there is a limit, but when they are indoor they consume more, even as an adult, when you are indoor you consume a lot, because you have nothing doing, but when you are at work, some of us might not even remember to eat until when you get back home. So this indoor, stay at home, have really caused a lot of depression, a lot of difficulty, mentally and physically and at the same time even some students, it was there, some students committed suicide, some parents committed suicide, so that is a great shock on our entire country, thank you.

I: Thank you so much Sir. Can we move on to the next question? What do you consider some of the missed learning opportunities during the COVID-19 lockdown period?

P: repeat again

I: What do you consider some of the missed learning opportunities during the COVID-19 lockdown period

R: spelling of the missed

I: M I S S E D

P: Okay

LECTURER: I think there was a research in south Africa, when they calculate the learning loss of primary school, but that of Nigeria, I think this will be for my own, this will be the first, because I am a researcher, I google, I actually want us to undertake that research, the learning loss in education system in Nigeria during COVID-19, but it is going to take a while, I think this is the first people to axis it, if you look at it, the student lost a lot, especially the higher institution, the student they were kept, except for some few private university, who actually migrated into virtual learning, for those in public universities as obtained the 192 universities we have in Nigeria, all of them went down, nobody could go online, except National Open University, then this university in Oyo State, University of Technology, I think that will be two university that was operating online fully, that was operating online fully so in a short mind, many student there was learning loss in the student.

PARENT 1: When you are talking about missed, I was talking, saying something before you came in, behavioral conduct, you see, it is not what the teachers or the lecturers give to the student alone that put together the learning capacity in the student, some learn also from their peers based on discussions, based on interactions because there are things that develop your in-built which are: location, association, connection and relations and all these things were missing, they were not there, so because these were not there, they missed their peers whom they could learn from, in those days when we are going to school, we look for brilliant student we want to sit with, we say I know this is my best friend, because he knows he is very brilliant, he is intelligent and I learn from him, and some of the things they got from their parent, because some parents too, learn, I mean put in so much into their children and they bring it to school and you see that same student coming to tell other colleagues like this is what my parent sees and they do, now that same student takes it back home and says mummy, daddy I think this is how Jide and the parents do at home, they missed, they missed all that, because they could not interact, there was not connection, there was no relation, there was no location, everything just got missed like that, so if we are talking about missed, that behavioural aspect of it was gone, thank you.

NCCE: During COVID-19 as we have already establish, there was movement restriction, face-to-face teaching was no longer fashionable, it created unimaginable shock for some areas of specialization, namely: science based courses, technological based courses, they suffered a lot, don't forget we had already mention here, that both students and teachers were technically deficient in the use of this devices, so, coupled with the fact that when you are now going off this thing virtually for those institution that even had it, there was a lot of challenges with science based courses and technology, now, particularly for those of us at the college of education system, options like teaching practice, they had no option than to step it down, teaching practice couldn't take place. One, fear of contamination of the virus, fear of moving around couple with the fact that there is limited skills in using this devices, so these are some of the challenges that we recorded then.

PARENT 2: I think the student missed a lot, for University of Ife, there motto is for learning and culture, and when you are not in class, there is no way you can interact and mix with your colleagues and get knowledge of understanding through them, I think with that they missed, secondly, virtually learning is not even good, some university cannot afford it, even the money of even buying data, some student cannot afford it, the gadget is not there, some people are using Techno Palasa phone, cannot even access en Internet en learning, so that is one thing they missed. Thank you.

I: Thank you very much Sir, let me ask question number four, what do you think is the cost to you or to another stakeholders, to what extent do you think this missed learning opportunities have affected student and teachers, what do you think is the cause to you of this missed learning opportunities or to another stakeholders, that means to what extent do you think this missed learning opportunities have affected student and teachers.

NUC: Thank you very much, the student missed a lot, I want to use my children as example, as of the time of the COVID-19, they were just home, no lesson teacher for them, they can't move around, their co-students, that they are learning in the same school, they can't see them, even the kids themselves becomes redundant at home, it is a missed, there learning process, you know, came down to zero.

I: The cost, okay

LECTURER: The cost implication, I think from when I don't know ,daddy says, if you look at JAMB, 2019 JAMB, the one they wrote, there was mass failure on it, the JAMB they wrote immediately after COVID-19, that's when there was outcry that we should cancel it, but the man there says no that we will not cancel it, you can look it up on net, I think the outcome, the implication is poor learning outcome, they were out of school for about how many months, there was no learning, and you ask them to come and write JAMB, and the result was loaded, so poor learning outcome is one of the implications,

NCCE: Like he said, when we are talking about teaching/learning process the ultimate goal is equipping learners with appropriate clues,

I: With appropriate

NCCE: Clues

I: OK

NCCE: and knowledge, unless and until that takes place, you cannot seem to have quality education, and to have quality education, we do say, there is what we call conducive learning environment, the situation

both teachers and student were faced then, does not provide this conducive learning environment for quality teaching to take place, on the side of facilitators, or better known in our own language here, teachers, curriculum delivery became hampered, giving to their unskillful characteristics as teachers, so it is a monumental cost for the system, and at the end of the day, how you appreciate this point is the fact that on record, they have tackled those themes topics or what do you call them, but the question is; as learning take place, because of the you know defective learning environment we have then.

I: Thank you Sir, can we move on to the next question

NGO: The greatest lost for me is em increasingly, during COVID-19, there were, the number of out of school children skyrocketed, as at today, globally we have about 275,000,000 out of school children, according to UNESCO, now Nigerian is contributing over

I: Nigerian or

NGO: No, worldwide, and Nigeria, you know is contributing over twenty million from this statistics, so increasingly during COVID-19 the interest to access education reduced drastically most especially in the rural areas, from the Northern part of the country, and the Eastern part of the country, you know, before COVID-19 even the issue of IPOB, it is because here are where that there are some places in the North-East, you know I am a lead direct in the civil society war, you know, that because of sit-at-home declaration by IPOB, you know, that it reduce the interest of children to access education, so the greatest lost for us as a country is increment in the number of out-of-school student, because education supposed to be attractive, you know for the student, that's my take on the lost

I: Thank you so much Sir, what do you think, most of the loose learning opportunities should be recovered or covered

LECTURER: Before I further, I don't know if this study cover private

I: Both private and public

LECTURER: Good, let me now talk about the issue of the private, because I was carrying out a research on it, the plenty of the private university could not pay salary to their workers, because money was not coming, many of my friends there were lamenting, in the case of the secondary school, majority of the secondary school teachers in private in Abuja here lost their job, the Catholic school have to lay them temporarily off, I knew of many people in CKC, they have to lay temporarily off, they didn't collect salary because they could not continue again with that. So to come to the next question now, what is the remedy? You are talking about the remedy, for the higher institution, where I belong my director, I think we need adequate funding to equip the university with the gadget, the ICT gadget, what we have now in the Western world is a Smart University, when we are talking about smart university, where you don't go there with any writing material, everything is ICT, smart university is what we are talking about, so we need the increase in Funding, my brother here, NUC, they have a lot of things to do, increase in funding for these people to have virtual facility, ICT to callabo online, and whatever, secondly not only that, post exercise, majority of the lecturers, professors are computer illiterate, they cannot operate, the old ones, not the young ones, there was a research on that, Google it you will see it, old ones, old professor, senior professor, give them this thing, they don't know it, only the junior lecturer who are ICT inclined, so they need training and re-training, in the case of University of Abuja, the VC did that training for all the lecturer before they resumed from COVID -19 there was a training about three weeks training, I think the remedy

is adequate funding, provide ICT facilities, provide the training for the lecturers and the student too, and talk about how to subsidize ICT facilities, because it is very expensive, how much is a system, if you have a system, as a student who is very poor, you have a system and say you want to be using ICT to communicate, you buy data. Thank you

I: Thank you very much, Thank you Sir,

PARENT 1: Ah, you see, let's call a spade a spade, not like something that look like....., I am a content developer and I have done a lot, all of my brothers here say they have research it, but let's just face it, we don't have a data base, yes, there is no database, check it, and that is the foundation, because if COVID-19 has come, and as you pray, for we pray it never come back, just go like that, but is a lesson, you don't make a mistake, mistake makes you, it makes you smarter, stronger and better, so now, what we need to do is to have a database both in the rural end and in the developed end, once you have a database, if anything comes up, you will know where to go and how to go and how to extract information, and you know how to pass it, even when we were talking about palliative dissemination, nothing happen because there is no database, so when you are talking about funding and everything without an adequate database, forget it, because if the GOS is collapsed, the DOS is collapsed, the IOS which is internal operating system cannot operate. The General Operating system is gone, the departmental operating system is gone, then what can the internal operating system do, a car that is knocked cannot work, except you change the engine so let's create a database.

NGO: My take on remedy and the remedy will have to start from the policy makers, and starting from the federal Ministry of education and relevant agencies.

I: how to recover what we have missed, that is

NGO: how to recover

I: What we have missed

NGO: What we have missed

I: the listed opportunities, how can we recover them

NGO: I can go on, alright, so for me is the regulatory agencies the policy maker needs to sit up, as matter of fact for somebody who is a curriculum developer and international accreditor, we are not serious as a country, the NUC, please apologies, and relevant regulatory agencies, are not making policy that supposed to help this education sector, single handedly, I was in all the regulatory agencies including Ministry of Education, where I met with the Ministers and EA's of all this relevant agencies. But the first thing that they will tell you is that this is Nigeria, we have our peculiar issues, then I ask question, what is, what is, what is all about this is Nigeria you are talking about, did US, Canada have two heads, now the issue of Curriculum, I was with Dr. Biodun, in your agency about Internalization of our curriculum, "oh they are reviewing it, they are reviewing it, they are reviewing it" they have not done anything about it, so one thing is that, our curriculum is old, is archaic, it is out of fashion and something must be done about it, and adequate funding should be provided to education, professionals, those that supposed to be there, unfortunately the ES of relevant regulatory agencies including the Minister of Education, they are not professionals, they don't know what they are doing and this is the major problem we are facing in the sector, for example, how can a Permanent Secretary of Ministry of Education take directive from a

Minister of Education who is not a career officer in that line, who has not gotten adequate experience in this job. Because before you can become a permanent secretary in any Federal government, you would have pass through, you would have been a teacher, a principal, you will know it all, like our current minister now is a journalist, so what is a Journalist doing in management of education, so adequate funding, improved infrastructure, you get to some of our schools today, we don't have conducive learning environment, for example even the colleges of education is fast disappearing, because nobody wants to be a teacher again, a lot of administrative bottlenecks for example the JAMB that we have, JAMB is creating more havoc to our educational system, in all over the world, you don't have an organisation like that holding the youth to ransom, you write the JAMB, you write post-utme, you tell them to go back to the university to go and do screening, and at the end of the day, the quota system that you have supplied for this system is not meeting up, and I want to recommend that JAMB should be scrap. Thank you.

I: (the interviewer pleading the participant to address the main question, but P2 pleaded to quickly address the issue of archaic nature of the curricula)

NCCE: Thank you very much, please, please, just wait, you see, he made an important point in respect to the archaic nature of our curricula at all level, beyond that, it's one thing to have technological devices in an institution, you may equally train your lecturers, there is one thing we forget, the ICT in many of our curricula are yet to be integrated into the ICT, it makes it even you, see until your curriculum, a given curriculum is integrated into the use of ICT, that you can now begin to think of training people, having all these things, we don't have that, it should be noted, it should be done. Then again, there is need, we always, you see there are, we are not proactive, with due respect from my colleagues coming from the university, we do every small thing, we cry on government, there are things we should think outside the box, for a researcher beside me now, I stand to be faulted before I leave this place, go and google, how many university in Europe, in America, that those government pay, you will see two university in the same state, they don't collect the same salary, it's a function of what the university does, the only thing the government does is to complement, we have avalanche of professions in our university today, what do we have on the table to show for it, you may say it is irrelevant, it is now you begin to think outside the box, whether we like it or not, however benevolent a government is, it cannot always provide the need of a quality academic institution, do you understand.

NGO: Remedies that you talked about, the issue of education in Nigeria should be decentralized, and during the COVID-19, everybody were expecting directives from Federal Ministry of Education, in other climes like Canada, most especially the issue of education accreditation is done by each province because at that level you will be able to monitor your education, Government should, most especially NUC should only be responsible to regulate, not to be involve in accreditation, I have been opportune to be part of the accreditation, it is a kangaroo accreditation, and I can say it in the presence of ES because AUC is number one government agency that is contributing bad leadership in the educational system, you know that a university does not have the necessary requirements in terms of faculty members, you approve it, a university will go and hire professors from another place, you know, you don't do continue assessment on the university, you collect bride, for example am aware of your place, that is NCC where you pay form, you purchase form of 5 million naira, to establish, college of education and for you to get it approve you need to send another 5 million to group that are coming, house them in an hotel, give them envelope, and even if they don't have necessary infrastructure for that curriculum, I mean for that accreditation to be given, they give, the agency has to be re-gig, anti- corruption department should beam their light to all the regulatory agencies, it is very important.

NUC: Just to correct a wrong impression, for you to establish a college of education, to this minute I am talking to you is a fee of 5 million naira, they call it unrefundable application fee, there is no any other 5 million, what happens is this, when you pay that money, and they will give you all the condition you require to establish those you know, we call it a brochure, after procuring a brochure, you study, you will now come back, you invite the NCC for what we call a source inspection, what does the source inspection means is for the team from the NCCE to go to that site where you intend to site the college, to inspect the facilities you have on the ground.

NGO: who foot there accommodation

NUC: ehn

NGO: who foot the bills for their accommodation?

NUC: When they are coming, before they come, they would have told them that they will receive the team, it is the responsibility,

NGO: I am coming, the responsibility of the college, what about the money paid for the application,

NUC: Please that is not, please, oga, I am only trying to correct the allegation that is what we are trying to, please let's not deviate. Please to your question now, how do we remedy, you see, one of the key thing is, we will leave the matter and be pursuing the shadow. When you look at NCCE, when you look NUC, When you look NBT, these are regulatory bodies dishes out policies that would regulate, you can't give what you don't have, am I communicating, if there is any need for any need for any research your research should even go further in finding, out what is even the quality of the people that are even dishing out this policies, because the guidelines, how to accredit this, how to do this, is coming from such people, it is believed that such people are equipped in knowledge to know what is good, so I think...

PARENT 1: There is something actually I need to cheap in, and please am sorry, my colleagues here, let's not deviate, let us be factual with ourselves, this is not a debate, something that we are asked to look for a solution, how do we move forward, because each and every one of us have been affected one way or the other as a result of this COVID-19, and let me say this, as we have this regulatory bodies, I don't know if we have any pressure groups that is also looking into this regulatory bodies, activities of this regulatory bodies, so what we need to do now 1. to put up a pressure group that will look into the private and the government, and the regulatory bodies because one, the private are taking advantage, and the advantage is those children, now the high cost of education will not allow people to go back to school, so now if you are looking at remedy, how to recover all those things we have missed, we need to make education so attractive, so affordable, so that they cannot come back, what do you put on the table, because even some parents have decided now that look, you are not going to school again, it is either you go and learn skill or you go back to the farm, but now we must put up a program that will make education attractive, let's put up program let's put up things that would make parents to say, ok , I want my children to go to school, if the cost of education is high, how many parents can afford it? That is it, so we need pressure groups and need to put up programs, events that will attract parent and attract even the student themselves to want to go to education, so that we can recover all that we have lost in the time past, thank you.

LECTURER: I think in a just point, looking at the education system in the higher institution, I believe they will directly have to stress themselves, they have to come out with a learning time, because they have

missed a lot, if a lecturer has to take a working load of maybe 3 days a week, there is need to extend it to 5, so there has to be, that is number one, extension of learning situation, number two, the teachers, the government, real point, because before the COVID-19 there is shortage of teachers in all the educational institution, we need to employ more teachers, this will make it more easier for colloquium implementation especially in the higher institution where there is shortage of lecturers to implement the colloquium.

I: Thank you very much Sir, let's move on to the next question, like I have been saying that you are already answering the next question; how to recover the missed learning opportunities, now how can we, what do you think could have been done to forestall/reduce the missed learning opportunities. Next question, compare to pre-COVID-19 time, do you think the learning activities were greatly disrupted or not? P8.

All P: It was greatly disrupted, highly damaged.

I: Ok, did you think that the government and other stakeholders were well prepared to avoid much missed learning activities as a result of ...

ALL P: No, unanimous No.

I: Ok, those are the reason we have been given, since those things were still not in place

I: What do you think the government can do to prepare better (we are not praying for such, we have different pandemic)

All P: Participant 1, participant 2

I: Let me finish the question Sir, prepare for this kind of emergency to unprecedented event in the future.

NCCE: Like we did said when we started, we said we were not prepared for now, for the reason of time, there should be an improvement on the technological barrier in digital infrastructure in connectivity in the colleges of education or in you know, I was writing from the point of view of a college of education person but holistically, what we are saying is that there should be an improvement on the technological barriers in digital infrastructure connectivity in higher institution, when that is done, you can now begin to think of training the staff, you can now begin to think of putting things in place.

LECTURER: I think there is need for national need assessment of all educational sector. Just like I said the entire one hundred and ninety-two university then went down, apart from only two and other private university, this as a result of inadequate ICT facilities, now there should be a national assessment need on ICT facility for all the public universities and colleges of education, polytechnic, we should have adequate data of student and lecturer because like in a case study of China, immediately after the COVID -19, two weeks into COVID -19, Chinese government take eighteen million teachers for implementation of teaching and learning during COVID -19, eighteen million teachers were taught within two weeks, so we need to go into training, why did they outcome about this, sorry to say, maybe my daddy here from that place will tell the number of lecturers we have, both in private and the data he will give him is very wrong, sorry to say because in NUC, the data they tell you as number of lecturer, go to the field is quite different, so we need to work on the data, because without data you cannot plan, I am a planner, I did admin and planning, you need a data to plan and to make policy.

NGO: They will need to increase funding, it is very important, at every point, have have cause to introduce, a program to NCC, called CPD that is Continuing Professional Development, you know because some are still there thinking that they have spent 7 years 8 years in their Master Degree, they don't know that the skill they had, is no longer relevant, so there is need for CPD and skill gap assessment, skill gap assessment of all staff, relevant faculties in our higher institutions, then Digital learning skill should be introduced to all the schools, all the lecturers as a compulsory, for example I represent Kyocera, and Kyocera is world giant when it comes to developing curriculum on digital skill and they are working with over 7,500 universities in the world, you know, so , thank God we able to establish relationship with Committee of Vice- Chancellors starting with, to see how everybody even including teachers can have some level of digital skills, then the government should open education and ensure that all institution and NUC should endeavor to put in their accreditation procedures online education platform, so when you are establishing a university, you must have online education platform, for student to be able to have access to, for those that are not within that your vicinity, to have access to education, because when you have online education or virtual learning, you will increase access to education, so online universities can begin to come up, Nigeria or the government should not monopolize open university, they should allow other people to go into Open University, what government just need to do is to approve, then there should be another accreditation on that level, so teachers training like he said, no adequate funding for teachers, for lecturers to be shared, for example in NUC am aware that even if you go to Federal petroleum now, you have to look for development partners, that will support you to train teachers, so government should put in their plan to train teachers, I think I align my taught in that area.

I: Thank you very much Sir, let's go to the second part

Please, please, sorry please, em sorry if I am bothering you, when you look at the mandate of the colleges to a minimum extent you find out that there may not fall in line again, you see with the mandate of the colleges is to train teachers, for the basic education level, to use this word, catch them young, if at that level, the teachers that are to go back to your primary school, nursery school, if they are well equipped, if they are well skilled, you find out that there will be no problem, so we are now saying that for teachers, colleges of education, they should mount a course we called it ICT for teachers, for teachers, what we have now, we have GSE, General studies education where we have some doses of computer literacy but the computer literacy you get from GSE is not good enough to face the challenges of 21st century teacher teachers. So if they mount a course in the name of ICT for teachers irrespective of your area of specialization, you offer that course, by the time you are graduating, not only you are graduating as a teacher, you are graduating as a 21st century teacher, so you can manipulate computer, even now, you see that some of the institutions that are okay, they have all these facilities they are more of flower vault than be useful to them, they can manipulate.

I: thank you very much Sir, So let's go to the second part of this, so second part we want to look at the loss of, just quickly looking at missed learning opportunities, now we want to look at the loss of access to vital school provided services, such as: health and nutrition, social potential, social safetiness, school feeding initiative, so now question one, that during COVID -19 lockdown, are you of the opinion that student and relevant stakeholder were able to access adequate social protection such as school provided services, health and nutrition, ongoing school feeding initiatives,

NUC: sorry am eating something,

I: No problem Sir

NUC: Thank you very much, as a matter of fact, all that you just mentioned there was none, because most of this anus here today are at me, I must be very honest with you, as am sitting down here am busy assimilating a lot of things, on how to get my report back because, indeed the NUC and other regulatory body has not really do the needful and for that, I must be very honest that I am very happy to be here today, because I will be taking a lot back. What you are saying I can really come out and start telling you, but I know this things, let's just leave it at the Nigerian factor.

PARENT 1: May be those things are practicable on paper, or they are just theoretical, but not practicals, because how can they even access all the schools, the teachers when we have a lot of ghost teachers, or when we have student that even the government did not even have their records, go to the Dekina Local Government when you see dilapidated infrastructures and he say yes they are student, they don't even know their names, they don't have records, the records are not submitted to the regulatory bodies, I have been a victim, when my son was to do an exam, and on getting to the exam, the name was not found even after paying all the necessary fee, doing all the necessary registration at the long run, I was told that it was the result of the system, that the system failed that is why it could not upload, it could not capture it, and that boy lost one year, who am I to hold, that is the stake, so I looked that boy, I had to consoled the boy, make sure I bring him back for his mental ability not to be affected, when there is no database, even if this something is somewhere somebody will swallow it, because if he is staying in their warehouse or there is a provision for it and there is no way to disseminate or to disburse or to put this things automatically, instead of this things to waste let me divert it to somewhere else, so this thing cannot be appropriately distributed, or disbursed or disseminate, because there is no adequate data base.

NGO: He has really hitting the nail on the head, They are just rhetoric and details on the paper, we need to do more and that is why we are here, so the school feeding program that he mentioned, how are they administering the process, who is enjoying it, so more social intervention should be introduced and most especially scholarship for the indigents, 2022/2023 academic session, TETFUND shortlisted 8000 students to go and school abroad on scholarship, who and who are benefiting from this scholarships? What are the guideline, what are the procedure? Can somebody in Ajegunle, a child of nobody benefit from it, or in Bayelsa or in Maiduguri, who and who is benefiting from it, TETFUND from 3 years back till now, they spent over 1.8 billion naira on training and scholarship of lecturers abroad, now, who and who benefiting from it, now even the current issue we are having between the Federal Government and ASUU, TETFUND is saddled with the responsibility to improve the infrastructure in our university but the money they have today, where and where are they channeling it, now TETFUND is single handedly starting a university and finishing it, they are supposed to be an intervention programme like that Federal University of Science and Tech in Gboko, every project is TETFUND TETFUND TETFUND, there are some areas that TETFUND has no visibility, that any program, then I want to use this opportunity to advocate for private universities, private colleges of education, private Polytechnics, that TETFUND too should begin to look into their matters because they have a way of even contributing to the economy, these are Nigerians that have spent their money, you know to build institutions, then they should be encouraged to get some of this grant, you know to build one or two things in their institution so that we can have improved education, even the colleges of education we have, colleges of health that TETFUND is supposed to pump in money into, they are not doing it, because it is from the colleges of Health that research on Health matters can be discovered, I mean, new health workers, paramedics and so on and so forth, for them to benefit from intervention from government, government is sessional when it comes to intervention and they must improve on that, Nigeria is just something else, and I thank God for those of you from different

government regulatory bodies that are here, you know what it takes, but one day, we believe we are going to get there.

PARENT 2: what I want to advocate now is transparency, all the relevant agencies, NUC, TETFUND, they should be transparent in all they are doing, during COVID -19 I took shots to even upgrade my record, they say I should bring money for data, to load my records, so that I can do it anywhere I go, I took the decision in Akure am coming to Abuja, they don't have data to update my record, so that is the intervention we are doing that is not properly done. Then the whole school feeding is nothing to write home about, who and who is benefitting? How many school are they feeding? There is no transparency, so that is all I can say, thank you.

LECTURER: I am going to look at it from teacher's perspective, teacher and the institution, first and foremost on the teacher both looking at the private sector, the social safety net, that was provided, they didn't capture the private teachers, I think there was, I wrote a book, a paper on that, where I recommended that they should form an association of Private school teachers, because that is what the government say that, there was no organization I think they will channel the subsidy em palliatives to, in that my book, in that my article on net, I think the recommendation is that number 1. The private teachers in each of the state should form and have a union, so that the case of this thing next time, they will have a union that will talk with the Federal Government, FCT Minister actually came out categorically, they were scolded, and he say they don't have a union, so the only thing they did, they have to work with the private principal, private proprietors or whatever, and I think they paid some of the teachers there, I think in some to some extent, some teachers in private, in my Nabaijudi where I stay, some teachers got thirty thirty thousand naira for three months, so it was not much, but there is an impact, I can calculate about 50 or 70 teachers that got that money here. When we are talking about the student, yeah, for student, directly and indirectly, because if you give their mothers, the lies or whatever, what they did Abayu was that they went to family by family, the politician and they gave them this bag or rice, this and this, I knew of the where I stay, the politician there, all the wife and everything got all this rice, directly and indirectly the students, there sure there fed from this, you can say the Social safety came, but the impact was so small, it didn't cover much, it was so small, maybe I will say 10% or 15% that's my submission.

I: Thank you so much, they say could you mention some other services that you feel were provided but not too mum to the problem at the time of COVID 19

NUC: Frankly speaking, a lot was provided, as you can see, we all saw them on the television, when later the citizens and the populace could no longer bear it, so they have to go the warehouse themselves, break it up and people started sharing themselves, because most of the Governors or the State government then were actually keeping those things for 2023 campaign election.

I: Who made provision for those palliatives?

NUC: Those palliatives, most of them were made by Federal Government and international organizations, yes they provided those things, I can testify of Lagos, of Abuja's own when even a woman, two women and two kids died, because of the stampeding, I could as well remember the one in Lagos, that people have to go and burst it at Badagry, and they took everything there, and the whole place was filled up, the warehouse were filled up with those palliatives, so, in fact our government are not honest at all,

I: Thank you so much Sir, now do you think that there was equity across gender

Ps: No!

I: Geographical locations in the distribution and access to this services,

Ps: Absolutely no

I: So what do you consider major challenges in accessing this services by beneficiaries?

NGO: Lack of awareness by relevant government agency, that saddled with the responsibility to disseminate information to the people e.g. National Orientation Agency, this things supposed to be jingle, there are supposed to be media materials everywhere in different languages so that they can get to people at the grassroots. so most of these intervention if you discuss, if you look at it got to the elite alone, so called elite and so on and so forth, so the relevant agencies that are supposed to broadcast this information are not really doing it, so that it can cascade that to the people at the grass-root at the bottom, so it's a major issue, major challenge, that's my own take on it.

PARENT 1: I just want to like buttress his point, in course of my build up, I have done a lot of research all over, because I did one village, one project, as far as Nigeria is concern, and I was able to understand that there is no village in Nigeria, that does not have a product to show case, now and the problem, talking about NOA, is because they don't have content, they are limited in contents, that will go round, because if you go there with your kind of content that can go down and touch the grass root they will not take it, they will not allow it, so you discover that when it comes to awareness, the content that should get to those at the grass root, I think that they don't even have it, they don't even know how to go about it, because 1. When it comes to language barrier, when it comes to culture, when it comes to religion, it is really affecting some of these things, so when they don't know how to go about those things it becomes a problem, so they are limited into how they distribute the information by creating the awareness so, it definitely going to get only to the elite so that is just it, so it's something that if they now accept contents, programs from those who develop contents, if they give an open door, when I mean an open door, without discrimination and give an open door, let people come in with content, and let people come in, in different dialect, in different languages and go into the interiors, into the grassroots, and tell people that this things are available, I think it will go a long way, thank you.

I: Thank you so much Sir, let me quickly rush to the next question that government did not really really ready to give out those palliatives so, I don't know whether the situation is still relevant, what could the government and other pertinent stakeholders could have done better to improve access to this services during the pandemic?

NGO: I am aware that relevant various civil society group came up with different palliatives both local and international NGOs, they tried to support the government, even some of the food donated; rice, came from the NGOs, individuals, some came from Dangote, some came from BUA, some came from Otedola and so many, I remember all of them donated 50 billion, or 50 Million, channeling this thing is the issue, so, private sector and civil society group also contributed to ensuring that we come out of the crisis, by helping individual, even people in health sector, you see doctors volunteering, moving from one place to the other, because even our hospital at a point, consultant those who have different hospitals gave out palliatives, and even reducing the cost of treatment, so private sectors may be doctor will like to...

PARENT 1: yeah you see the thing is, when it comes to this palliatives, before this program, this stakeholder program started, I was discussing with somebody that how do I get grants, I have an NGO, it

is about health, on environment and the health worth itself, so I do I get grants, I don't look for grants, I create content that julerate grants, all I do is, I create content, I create programs that attracts grants, I don't go looking for grants from people, I don't go asking you to come and give me, so I think at this level what am saying is if individual organisation or party can now do what we call a direct generation that okay, you have this school, and social media alone ask some of them how many followers do they have on Instagram, how many followers do they have on Facebook how many followers do they have on WhatsApp, do you know N20 N20 naira in 1 million places is N20,000,000, so all I did is , I did a program on earth and say save the earth with N20 and I was spreading it round, and I was telling everybody, you can save the earth with N20, so when I came to him, instead of giving me N20, he gave me N1000, that means he has paid for like 500 people and then somebody else will come and say N20,I put N5000 but then you must have a content, you must have something to show for them to see that you are advocating or you have a capacity to do so, this population we have is our strength. During the COVID-19, I was in Utabalifi that is Nassarawa, what I did because I am a pediatrician, I am a kid's doctor, and so what I did is for the kids, I came up with organic product for the children, and call it first-aid kit box, well the children take it, whatever they take from me does not have any effect on them, like turmeric, like garlic, like ginger so if they drink it there is nothing like overdose of all this, so I came up with a box and I was given it to all those houses where they have children, just to take them off the cold and boost their immune system, it's a thing we can do, a direct, but if you are waiting for somebody to get involved in something for you , you can imagine if university of Ife decided to do a direct sourcing for grants not by one agency or one body to come and help them out, why not do it yourself, then we will know, that okay if I am supporting, if I am giving a grant, I am giving a grant to university of Ife, but am giving a grant to a body and I don't know if that grant gets to the appropriate channel or being disbursed to what is being asked for, you can see the question we are asking, the other I try to package a program for Juliana asthma something something like that. And he came to Lagos, I was in Lagos, I package an event for him, we put up this event, unknown to me that what he was just doing was just to gather a content and put it on his social Media to tell those who are giving him grant to him more grants, and eventually the grants came, because they thought he has done something, they thought he has gotten packaged, because they saw all the crowd, for widows, for children for motherless, and they saw all this things and they saw people and they saw the I address, the way we talk, I took him to one of the king in Lagos, the money came, nothing, till today, so we just have to be very careful that's why I was like hello, am here, I don't know why I am here, yes you can say this but there is a need for us to know that you are with the regulatory bodies, and what you are doing, you have the capacity to do it, and you are doing it with all transparency just like he said, and we are doing it in the right direction. Then we can now come and put it in our own from different dimension, I put up a program, I tell you one of the artist in this country alone have over ten million followers on Instagram, if he drops his singles today more than two million will click it within two hours, on hundred hundred naira, and that is hundred million, two hundred million just like whooping money like that, so but then who am I doing it for, I can put up a program that can bring this, but I must know who am I doing it for, I can just put in my money, my energy, my resources, my mechanism, my concept, my everything, put it and the next thing the money just go vuam into the thin air, and that is what a lot of people are just looking for out to make money but are not ready to help humanity, thank you.

I: Thank you so much Sir, so this aspect is the last question, this aspect, in your opinion what are the impacts of this learning differentials in terms of school drop outs, transactional sex, force marriages, cases of school dropouts, pregnancy, hawking, rape, incest, child abuse?

NCCE: one of the hard effect of drop outs is what you and I are living today, so you see, we will shoulder all the blames, so you know the problem we have today, the drop outs, when you hear of dropouts, until you found yourself in this type of situation we found ourselves today in this country, you begin to feel, you know, unconcern, it doesn't concern me, those people we call the names, any name you want to call them, whether is bandit you are calling them, what cause them is dropping out of schools, do you understand, so when you are in an environment, where you experience this kind of experience you are having, students dropping out, we are creating challenges for the economy, for the people around you, beyond that it impacts negatively on the country GDP, In number, every other country will know that Nigeria has this number but in terms of productive number, how many of us are productive? Out of about 200 million we claim we have, we will be surprise that the people making that GDP may not even be up to 10 million, so is it now a problem or is it an offshort or a this thing, so for me that is one of the things.

P8: We are talking about the effect of, I believe the type of education many students were not able to go back to school because of the issue of child abuse, during the COVID-19, staying at home, they were been abused, they ended up being, that deny them of going back to school, whether they went to their husband's house, the other aspect this COVID-19 affected female student more than the male student, so many more female student were unable to go to school because of socio economic impact, they have to go and be hawking, when they were at home, they were not doing anything, rather than to be hawking for their parent and whatever, and this occasion again, many people have to put their children away, because of the socio economic that COVID-19 brought No salary, some people have to locate their children to another place, while those children have to go for what is it called, domestic work in other states, moving over away from where they are close to learning, after COVID-19 they were unable to come back and continue their education.

I: thank you very much Sir, the other parts we've almost mention them in the first part. So let me just read briefly all the seven question so, if you have something else to add.

1. That during COVID-19 lockdown, do you think the access to an auto capacity bay resources influence learning activities and to what extent that is one
2. Which major virtual platform were adopted by learning institution and what do you consider major challenges transecting this services by relevant stakeholders so let us just take it two two like that.

LECTURER: Ok, I will talk about barrier to ICT during the COVID-19, the like of electricity, there was no light nationwide, it affected e-learning activities among the student and the data is very expensive, to buy data as a student for you to access this problem, we have talked about high cost of data, we now talk about the service, quality of service, those in rural area, majority of them could not access quality of service so is breakdown, there is possibility of teaching and learning, you wont hear the, I think I have a program then, online conference in Nigeria then, organize in USA, I think the network problem stopped me, particularly from enjoying that stuff, because the network, MTN, i moved to GLO, I moved to everything it was so very weak. So we have the problem of weak network, high cost of data and high cost of ICT facilities those are the barriers.

P: Then, I wouldn't want to mention whatever my colleague had already mention, those ones are there, another problem we have generally in this country, when we are conceiving policies, we conceive what we call Elitist Policies, even this your JAMB you talked about, I am a village man, I came from a village, at times when you think about this JAMB, JAMB has deprived many intelligent people

of going to school, if it's possible for you and I to be in Abuja still having problem of inadequacy of technological whatever, you can now think of somebody who is in a village there, that has never seen a laptop. So already the policy had already cut him off. The policy had already truncate his vision in life. So on the basis of that, when this COVID-19 came, those people in the villages, some of them don't even have radio, and that is where FME got it wrong, they said they were doing these Radio, TV, whatever, is it not when you have food, you ate and you didn't fed up, this people don't even have what to eat, you are thinking of radio, they may have radio , they may not have money to buy battery, so these are some of these things

I: Please Sir, let me remind you the second question; which major virtual platform were adopted and what do you consider major challenges.

PARENT 1: when we are talking about virtual platform we are talking about electronics media, let me come from the area of TV, are you getting it now, though the tribe was tribe and never thrive because that would have been the major area that would have been adopted, but then what are the content there, are you getting it now, this is where also the regulatory body, the BON organisation, that is the B. O. N. who are the regulatory body for Broadcasters Association of Nigeria, where they will look to look at what are the content that go to the TV, because you see, during the COVID, nobody has anywhere to go but to face the TV, those who doesn't have a phone, at least they will have a TV, even in the rural area, if it is not in one house, it is in another house, are you getting it now, which can easily be, something that is normal, that can be affordable, and the next thing instead of that you see even viewing centers are more occupied, more populated, than having a place where can boost the educational ability of this children. So now they should come, that is where I want the regulatory body of this broadcasting and everything to come on board, and put in a content that will attract education and that will make them and then we should make it attractive, because if you look at some of this program on TV, what is attracting a lot of people to go into these, now this year, a particular program is given N100,000,000 for whoever is the winner, and when they say somebody is no. 1 in mathematics, they give him a mathematical set and give him N10,000.00, so we want a situation whereby organizing big industry come glom orates, are you getting it now The Exxon Mobil, the oil companies of this world, the manufacturing companies of this world, let them come on board and put in a huge sum of money, and they will now see if this children will not come out and say, look, what I want is education and not immoralities, because you see, the heart of man, once there is a vacuum, and you don't put the right thing there, anything occupies it, and that is why even on this gadget alone, because on the gadget there is no platform of education, of education that is so interesting and attractive, now what is interesting is pornography, interesting is something that music, or something because those things are put in a manner that is attractive, education too can be put in that way, that people will come in, because if you say look, whoever comes first in English on a particular platform on the phone, maybe a particular app, if you go to that app and you win in English competition, Maths competition, you stand a chance winning 10,000 USD, I can bet you, and how much is 10,000 USD to a Mobil Exxon, how much is 10,000 dollars to some of this great men who said they were given us palliatives that is nothing, in that palliative they would have just create a platform, let the ICT create a platform that they would have put those money there and say look , I for one, I know I can tell my son, go to that platform, you can win an English competition, Economics competition, Commerce competition, and if you win that, you win 5000 dollars, 2 thousand dollars, 3 thousand dollars and you know what, nobody will want to go any other platform so these are the things that I think should come

up, because these are the challenges we face, they didn't come up with right things are put in place, this challenges until those things are put in place, this challenges will continue to repeat itself.

PARENT 2: Sorry, I have voice challenge o, I am just recovering from stroke, so my voice is impaired, en, everything bothers to regulation, like this content they have just talked about now, NCC they are not doing well, they don't regulate communication very well in Nigeria, see, Tik Tok, they have use it to spoil the whole country, some young young guys now will be using Tik Tok to do everything but they didn't put education on it because, China that created Tik-Tik they regulated it, so it did not allow our educational system to grow, thank you that is my contribution.

I: Sir let me just add the next two questions together, we are rounding up, that do you know of any assistance in form of ICT equipment, data given to schools either by the government or the private institution to assist with continue learning during the pandemic. Two, do you think there was equity across gender, geographical locations.

P_: No database, see the system in this country, let's be honest, you and I are Nigerians, it is a matter of who is charge. Badmus is in charge ok. The first thing I will remember my house, I will remember my close friend, my compound, my local government and then others, everybody knows this.

PARENT 2: I was in Ikoyi, sometimes during this pandemic, he wants to organize UNESCO program for children, somebody just came in to troppel in immigration, he says how many children do you have in your school, in your house, talking to a visitor, I need children like 26 to go to USA for a conference, so the something was not equally distributed, Just a few click provided 26 children to a free trip to America, on the Federal Government expenses.

I: Thank you so much Sir, I have said this also, maybe you have additions, what could the government and other pertinent stakeholders could have done better to improve access to ICT equipments these are now suggestions recommendation

All **P:** The question again

I: what could the government and other pertinent stakeholders could have done better to improve access to ICT equipments and other facilities during the pandemic then what are your recommendation (you've said a lot) suggestions that could better prepare us for unprecedented shock to education and learning activities

PARENT 1: let me come from this direction, I happen to be a consultant to a particular lady who was given the approval to take education to prison and I consult for her and I was able to put up some things, one of the things I discovered because I went to Kuje prison before the breakout, so I went to Kuje prison and I was able to see Open University in the prison, and I was able to interview most of those inmate who have graduated, those who came in as a school certificate holder, and graduated as a B.sc holder, those who came in as a B.sc Holder and graduated as a Master degree holder and those who are Master degree holder and now approaching their Ph.D, now, I was able to see that, that person that came in into the prison by stealing phone, or car theft now gotten there is now B.Sc holder will never go out there to say he wants to go and steal again, he is now enlighten, exposed, educated and has experience, what we are saying now, and the facilities provided which happened to be the computers provided for them to do their program, was been donated by a church, that is a church, if a church can come to donate because they have what we call prison ministry, we begin to

look at other conglomerates, other companies to also come up and donate to schools and now what do, because those computer were donated by the church, they name that particular hall after the church, are you getting it now, and the computers were also, the name of the church were also inscribed on the computers and in there website, the names of that church was mentioned, so it is like given them more kind of promotional advert or awareness to people, so now same way other people too can come from that and donate to schools. You don't say they are government schools, all you need to do is donate and at the same time, a hall, we go to schools, we see what we have, we have seen queen Amina hall, we have 'this' hall 'that' hall. Halls can be named after you, because for instance let me look at artist in the time past, where is the like of artist like Mike Okri, Sunny Nneji, and those who sang good music, Sunny Okosun though he is late. Who remembers them, but something can be done, if those who are making so much money in the entertainment industry, can now move into this universities and do just donations, what does it cost to donate 100, 200, Or 500 systems and create what we call internet WIFI and it is name after you, even when you are no longer reigning in the entertainment sector, your name will remain in that school forever as long as that school remain, so I have a program like that, I am designing it for one of the musician, are you getting me, all you need to do is to based scholarship, to do a scholarship for all the schools, all those who you have benefitted from, who have come to spray you, energize you and praise you, you say okay, look, I am doing a raffle, raffle ticket your children I will be the one to sponsor them, and that will make you relevant not only in the music aspect but also make you relevant that you have contributed, you have given back to the society, so this can come from any angle, any sector, anybody so that by doing this we don't need to wait only on the government, we also we have all, we also have our own quarters, we also have our own contribution, we also have something to do, thank you very much, God bless you

I: Thank you very much Sir, I hope we have all saturated all our contributions quickly, we really appreciate you so much Sirs, such an interesting comments, kilos, bills and the rest, we appreciate you so much, thank you very much.